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Onassis Left Few Reflections On Her Life

Newsday

New York

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis worked as a book editor in New York for 19 years but apparently made no effort to produce one of the most sought-after books in publishing — her autobiography.

Colleagues in the publishing industry said they knew of no attempt on her part to write a personal memoir.

"My sense — and others who knew her told me this — was that maybe one day she would write something down," said Gerald Posner, author of "Case Closed," a book about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that was published last fall. "But there was no rush, really, because she was young."

After joining Viking Press in 1975 — she moved to Doubleday three years later — Onassis spoke with reporters at book parties.

But except for an extended interview about her publishing career that she gave Publishers Weekly last year, her documented recollections since her husband's death consisted mainly of a few minutes of testimony before the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, and interviews with historians Theodore White, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and William Manchester.

Manchester recorded 10 hours of interviews with her as he researched his book "The Death of a President." He gave many of these tapes to the Kennedy library in Boston, where they will remain sealed until 2067.

The library also has tapes of the interviews with White, which are off-limits until a year after her death.

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